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LATE EDITION

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 27, 1918.

PRICE: THREE CENTS Delivered By Carriers
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BRITISH COUNTER-ATTACK BEGINS Two Towns Taken--Enemy Gets into Albert

TOMMIES COME BACK ON ANCRE-SOMME LINE

Critical Point in Battle Believed to Be Reached.
Tide Turning, But Enemy Prosecutes
Defense Vigorously.

London, March 27.—The British delivered a counter-attack today between the angle of the Ancre and the Somme and recaptured Morlan-court and Chipilly, the war office announced this evening.

London, March 27.—The Germans are in possession of the town of Albert, it was announced today by Maj.-Gen. Maurice, chief director of military operations, at the war office. The British are holding the railway embankment on the western outskirts of the place, he stated. Gen. Maurice laid a map of the western front on the table in his quarters while making his customary verbal statement today, a blue line representing the front as outlined in last night's communique, while a bright green line showed the line at 1 o'clock this afternoon.

The changes today included slight enemy advances along the Somme, both north and south of the river, and a similar enemy push further south around Erches and L'Echelle-St. Aurin.

German Reserves Massing.

"During the night," continued Gen. Maurice, "the enemy attacked just north of the Somme and drove us back to Mericourt and Sailly, but fresh allied troops arrived on the scene this morning and counter-attacked, regaining a considerable part of the ground the Germans had taken. On the remainder of the northern part of the front the line remains steady."

"For the time being the enemy is definitely checked north of the Somme. The fighting in this district has been very severe and the enemy troops are exhausted."

"North of Albert an attack may be expected momentarily, as German reserves have been seen massing."

"The enemy is now in Albert, while the British line holds the railway embankment on the western outskirts."

"South of the Somme attacks in the Roye and Noyon areas are expected to be renewed, but French reserves are approaching."

French Give Ground.

The French have been heavily engaged west of Roye and were forced to give ground, the London announcement states. Reinforcements for them are arriving.

An enemy attack in the neighborhood of Bucquoy has so far made no impression upon the British lines.

A number of other heavy attacks both north and south of the Somme were repulsed with heavy loss to the Germans.

The enemy's troops are in Albert.

HEAVY ATTACK REPULSED AFTER HARD FIGHTING

London, March 27.—A heavy attack was made early in the night against the new British line south of the Somme. It was repulsed after severe fighting, the war office announces.

In consequence of attacks yesterday afternoon and evening astride the Somme, the British troops on both banks were forced back a short distance in the neighborhood of Bray.

The announcement follows:

"As a result of the enemy's attacks yesterday afternoon and evening astride the Somme our troops on both banks were forced back a short distance in the neighborhood of Bray. A heavy attack made early in the night against our new line south of the Somme was repulsed after severe fighting. At one point in the neighborhood of the river the enemy forced his way into our positions, but was thrown back by our counter attacks."

"Further local fighting has taken place also north and northeast of Albert, but the situation on this part of the battle front remains unchanged."

DEVASTATED SOMME REGION REGAINED BY HUNS---ALLIED DEFENSE STRONGER

Germany's supreme effort to break the allied front in the west apparently is no nearer accomplishment today than it was on the day the great drive started, and she is estimated to have lost 400,000 men in the futile effort during less than a week's fighting.

She had not given up the attempt, however, the dispatches from the front indicating that her forces are massed for a drive in the region of Roye and Noyon in an effort to break through there, as a preliminary to a rolling-up process either to the north or south.

As against the chances of her accomplishing this purpose may be counted the factor of forewarning for the allies. There seems no doubt now as to where the heaviest hammer stroke is to fall and the opportunity is offered of disposing the vast allied reserve forces to meet it—an opportunity lacking in the earlier stages of the drive.

The entente line as it now runs, with British, French and Americans standing together, presents an unbroken front throughout the battle area. There has been a slowing down in the German pressure north of the Somme, except possibly in the vicinity of Albert, where the British are holding doggedly. In the Noyon region and along the line of the Oise to the east, the French, by their valiant defense, have likewise compelled the Teutons, weakened by their ceaseless efforts and heavy losses, to relax the force of their pressure.

Meanwhile it is clear that the Germans themselves are being compelled to admit that their success in driving back the entente line for such great distances on so wide a front is by no means a decisive one. "Nobody can foresee what will result from it," Gen. Von Ludendorff declared in an interview in alluding to the victory he claims.

Concurrently the Germans are apparently finding their position in the east, where they were supposed to have insured peace with Russia and the Ukraine, none too secure.

Odessa, the Black sea port upon which they rely to ship them the supply of grain needed by the Danube, is recaptured by the bolshevik and Ukrainian troops, the Russian official news agency reports. This follows shortly upon the news of the recent capture of two other Black sea ports, Kherson and Nikolayev, by the bolsheviks.

It was upon Odessa that Germany also was reported as relying as a key point on the direct route to the east, the plan of having secured in her scheme of penetration into the Orient. Germany is reported to have left control of affairs in the Ukraine largely in the hands of the Austrians who are engaged in her great effort on the western front, and apparently they are making none too good a job of it.

Associated Press Review.

Having regained all the devastated Somme region in their offensive, the German armies now find themselves before an allied defense which grows stronger each hour. In the north the enemy has been definitely checked and in the south, where his latest and most important gains have been made, he has been unable to push west of Roye and Noyon.

The British line from the Scarpe river southwest through Albert to the Somme has held fast for twenty-four hours and the Germans have been repulsed in local attacks along this sector. The front here is now west of the old Somme battlefield and west of the Ancre river just north of Albert, which is eighteen miles northeast of Amiens.

South of the Somme the Germans have advanced west of the old front before the beginning of the Franco-British offensive of 1916, but have not yet gained it west of Roye. The most bitter fighting has occurred on the front south of the Somme and still continues, but the enemy has been checked west of the Roye-Noyon sector, perhaps the most vital point on this part of the line. A further advance on this sector might endanger the French hold on the southern bank of the Oise which has been steadfast against all German attempts.

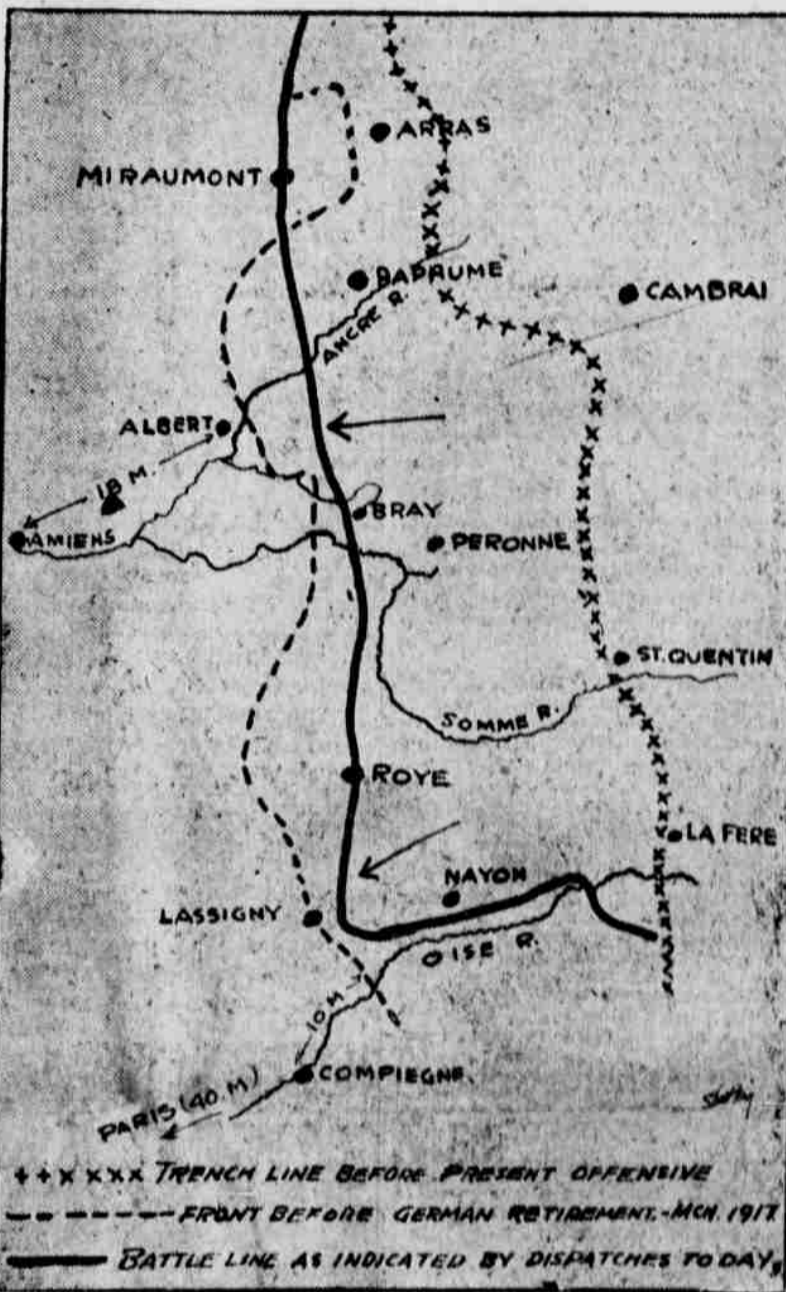
On this front, Field Marshal Haig reports American troops are now aiding the French and British. The identity of the American units have not been disclosed, but it is probable they form a part of the Franco-American reserves on the Alsace and Champagne fronts.

From Noyon eastward to south of La Fere the French hold strong positions along the Oise which the Germans have been unable to push back. It is reported from Berlin unofficially that French and American troops have carried out a strong counter-attack south of La Fere against the pivot of the German lines but without success.

The apex of the blunt-pointed wedge the Germans have driven in the British lines in six days is east of Albert. Berlin reports that the British counter-attacks here have been repulsed but, on the other hand, the Germans have made no gains. The outer points of the wedge are Monchy, south of the Scarpe, and the Oise river south of La Fere.

That the enemy did not make other attacks on the western front simultaneously with his blow west of Cambrai is accounted for by statement from Field Marshal Haig that the Germans have used up most of their reserves and that more than 400,000 men have been thrown into the battle by the enemy. All other sectors of the western front

TODAY'S SITUATION IN GREAT BATTLE



The above map, drawn from the dispatches this morning, shows the lines of fighting as nearly as can be learned. The Germans took Bray, on the Somme, today, but have made no other advances. The French and Americans are holding them at Lassigny, near Noyon. Slightly north of there the British are defending their positions. According to the dispatches, there is now little trench fighting, but more and more old-fashioned battles in the open.

have been drawn on by the Germans to carry out their great attack.

American gunners on the sector northwest of Toul have forced the Germans to abandon the town of Richcourt, opposite the American lines. This town has been shelled heavily, as has St. Basseant and other important points behind the enemy lines. The artillery on both sides has been busy firing gas shells, but the Americans have given the enemy two shells for every one of his. There was no infantry action either here or on the sector east of Luneville.

At Crisis in War

Field Marshal Haig in Special Order of Day Appeals to His Men.

London, March 27.—Field Marshal Haig has issued the following special order of the day, dated March 27:

"To all ranks of the British army in France and Flanders: We are again at a crisis in the war. The enemy has collected on this front every available division and is aiming at the destruction of the British army. We have already inflicted on the enemy, in the course of the last few days, a very heavy loss and the French are sending troops as quickly as possible to our support. I feel that every one in the army, fully realizing how much depends on the exertions and steadfastness of each one of us, will do his utmost to prevent the enemy from attaining his object."

FAIR, SAYS BILLY 'POSSUM



TURNING POINT BELIEVED NEAR

Washington, March 27.—Belief that the turning point of the battle in France is near at hand pervaded Washington today and American military observers who are closely following developments in the terrific struggle, centered their attention on the front held by the French in anticipation of a powerful counter thrust.

Hints in the British press that some change in the situation may be expected soon has strengthened the view here that the steady British withdrawal is part of a definite battle plan, the ultimate object of which is the launching of a great counter offensive. The most probable place for such a movement, it is believed, is from the flanking position the French held last night along the left bank of the Oise river.

War department officials today also awaited confirmation from Gen. J. J. Pershing of British official statements that American troops were fighting side by side with the French and British. Nothing to show American participation reached the war department last night and Gen. Pershing's report of early details of fighting in the region of Neale and Noyon, previously reported in dispatches to the Associated Press.

Until official word from Gen. Pershing is received none will make a guess on the part the Americans are playing. American heavy artillery is training in England and the men are familiar with British heavy guns. They may have gone forward in replacement detachments sent to the front with new guns. American tank detachments also have been training in England and it is pointed out that American infantry training in France may have been attached to the French forces.

ALBERT FALLS INTO HANDS OF GERMANS

Berlin Official Claims British Have Begun Retreat on Both Sides of Somme—Allies Attempt Counter-Attack Over Crater Fields.

Berlin, March 27.—(Via London).—The British began to retreat early this morning on a wide front on both sides of the Somme, army headquarters announced today. The stubborn resistance of the hostile rear guard was overcome in the sharp pursuit.

British and French divisions which were defeated on March 25 endeavored again yesterday in the pathless crater fields of the Somme battle, the announcement adds, to arrest the German advance.

The German attack, it is declared, broken through the enemy's lines. To the north and south of Albert the Germans won crossings of the Ancre. Albert was captured last evening.

To the south of the Somme, after violent fighting, German forces drove the enemy back by way of Chaulnes and Lahous.

Roye was taken by storm and Noyon was cleared of hostile forces after bloody street fighting, the report states.

30 AMERICANS KILLED IN BATTLE

Casualty List From France
Shows Sammies Have Been
in Thick of Fight.

Washington, March 27.—The casualty list made public today by the war department contained thirty names divided as follows: Killed in action, 9; died of accident, 1; died of disease, 4; wounded severely, 2; wounded slightly, 14. No officers were named in today's list.

Names as follows:

Killed in Action—Cadet Thomas C. Nathan; Privates John E. Allen, Harry E. Boerster, Walter T. Cohen, Garry Crist, Archie Henderson, Clarence M. Jones, Jesse L. Koopman, Alek Miller.

Died of Accident—Sergeant Hunter Masie.

Died of Disease—Cook Paul Bouchet; Privates Robt. S. Cross, John W. Lemke, Geo. W. Oldfield.

Wounded Severely—Privates DeWain E. Montgomery, Geo. E. Osterander.

Wounded Slightly—Corporal Edward C. Twitchell; Privates, first class, William C. Peck, Marienus W. Burghman, Lee A. Chardand, Rudolph J. Costello, Percy T. Engelage, Jr., Jacob Ginsberg, Edward F. Grabbill, John Kletzing, John D. Perry, Wm. Ring, Tony Testa, Elton W. Tolin, Wm. Van Ber Ploeg.

EXTREME LOSSES OBLIGE GERMANS TO RETARD DRIVE

Paris Announces Check Given
to Enemy at All Points.
Troops Heroic

Paris, March 27.—Last night the German advance was held up everywhere, according to the official statement of the war office today. The enemy, weakened by heavy losses, it adds, has been obliged to slow up his efforts.

Official Report Follows.

The statement follows: "Last evening and during the night the Germans, weakened by their heavy losses, were compelled to retard their efforts. The valiance of the French troops defending the ground foot by foot is beyond all praise."

"The French are holding a line running through L'Echelle, St. Aurin and Beauvignies, north of Lassigny, in front of the southern part of Noyon and along the left bank of the Oise. During the night the French repulsed strong reconnoitering parties which attempted to approach their positions northwest of Noyon."

"On the remainder of the front there was an intermittent bombardment."

No Removal From Compeigne. Paris, March 27.—Reports current here that the inhabitants of Compeigne, between Paris and the battle front, were being removed are denied by the Petit Journal. A large number of persons, it says, are leaving the town voluntarily to avoid violent bombardments by enemy airplanes, but no order to evacuate has been given.

Detained Far Behind Lines.

Amsterdam, March 27.—German troops, going forward to the attack on the British front in France, detained far behind the lines, even behind the Belgian frontier, according to the correspondent of the German newspaper Westfaelische Zeitung. These forces marched for six consecutive nights, no columns showing themselves on the roads in the daytime.

ENEMY REPULSED ON ITALIAN LINE

Rome, March 27.—"Our advanced posts in the Arona valley repulsed enemy detachments by rifle fire," says today's official communication. "Patrol encounters occurred along the Piave and east of Montello."

"On the remainder of the front there were desultory artillery actions which were more intense at intervals in the coastal region."

WITNESS REPUDIATES FORMER DEPOSITION

Cook's Counsel Springs Surprise in Motion for New Trial in Blackmail Case.

Atlanta, Ga., March 27.—A surprise was sprung by counsel for the state today in the hearing of a motion for a new trial for J. W. Cook, convicted of attempted blackmail of Mayor Asa G. Chandler, when they presented a new affidavit from H. E. Bee, a film salesman, repudiating his previous deposition, presented in behalf of Cook on March 23. In his statement Bee swore he was one of the men who accompanied Cook to the mayor's office on Feb. 6, that he peeped through the mail slot and witnessed the mayor and Mrs. Margaret Hirsch, convicted with Cook, in the room.

The second affidavit, produced today, was secured from Bee in Birmingham. In it he stated that on Feb. 6 he went with Cook, at the latter's solicitation, to the Chandler building, but did not peep into the mayor's office and saw nothing of the mayor or Mrs. Hirsch. As in the first affidavit Bee declared Cook met him on March 21, when he (Bee) had been drinking and threatened him with bodily injury if he did not sign an affidavit Cook had prepared. Under fear for his life, Bee said, he signed the paper, then went to Birmingham. Judge Benjamin Hill took the matter under advisement and will not hand down a decision until after the defense completes its showing.

ONLY ONE PLANE SENT TO EUROPE SINCE WAR ENTRY

Lieut. Col. Jones So Testifies
Before Senate Military Committee.

Washington, March 27.—Lieut. Col. E. Lester Jones, of the supply division of the signal corps, testifying before the senate military committee today, declared that only one airplane has been shipped to Europe by this government since the United States entered the war.

Complete Rout of Korniloff Forces

London, March 27.—The council of commissioners at Moscow has announced the complete rout of the remnants of the Korniloff forces, which were operating in the Kuban district in Ciscaucasia, says an Exchange Telegram dispatch from Moscow. Several detachments withdrew to the mountains, where they were cut off.